

PH 0507831

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED <b>NOV 22 1977</b>
DATE ENTERED <b>APR 26 1978</b>

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER From junction US 78 East on S.C. Highway 182  
for approximately one mile; campground is on left

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ridgeville

VICINITY OF

#1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

045

Dorchester

035

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE (COM-plex)	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. H. M. Blanton, Chairman, Trustees of Cypress Methodist Campground

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 123

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ridgeville

VICINITY OF

South Carolina

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

St. George

South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

S. C. Department of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground consists of approximately thirty-four cabins called "tents." They are arranged in a large rectangle in the center of which is located a shed-like structure known as the "tabernacle." On one edge of the campground is a church and its cemetery.

The tents are all approximately the same size, one and one-half stories and of rough hewn lumber. (One exception is two stories high). The tents feature small shed-type porches and gable roofs, most of which are covered by tin. Windows originally were mere openings, but today standard windows with glass are increasingly being used.

The typical floor plan of a tent features a hall extending the length of the structure with as many as three rooms on the opposite side. Floors are earthen. The second story is accessible by a small stairway or ladder.

In the center of the rectangle is the tabernacle, an open-sided wooden structure where services are held. This structure features a hipped roof, a raised platform for the preachers and choir, and simple wooden pews.

Offset to the west side of the campground is a modern church of concrete block construction (ca. 1940s). It replaced an earlier structure and hence has historical associations. It is not, however, significant architecturally. The adjacent cemetery contains graves from the early 1800s.

The rectangle is encircled by a private road on the other side of which are the outdoor privies.

Surroundings: Cypress Methodist Camp Ground is located in rural Dorchester County and is surrounded by woods and farmland.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cypress Methodist Camp Ground, located in rural Dorchester County, is one of only a few campgrounds in South Carolina which continue to host annual week-long camp meetings--a vestige of the Great Awakening in American religious life in the 19th Century. Cypress is significant for its association with Francis Asbury, pioneer of American Methodism, and for its long, uninterrupted use as a site of revivalism for almost 200 years.

Architecture: The design of Cypress Camp Ground reflects its use as a setting for a collective religious experience. It is in the general shape of a rectangle of 34 "tents," or cabins, made of rough-hewn lumber. These cabins, rectangular-shaped, are generally 1 1/2 stories and contain earthen floors. In the center of the rectangle is the tabernacle, an open-sided wooden structure which is the focal point of these revival meetings.

Religion/Philosophy: Cypress Camp Ground was functional as early as 1794. In that year Francis Asbury, who led the organization of American Methodism through itinerant preaching known as "riding circuits," recorded in his journal: "Sunday 19, Rode to Cypress, where I could not rest without giving them a little sermon."<sup>1</sup> Similar references are found in his journal in 1799, 1801 and 1803. In 1825 Cypress was the site of the Conference of Local Preachers for the Charleston District. It was reported that "During the Conference, public worship will be performed day and night as at a camp meeting."<sup>2</sup>

Serving crowds too large for church buildings or homes, the campground responded to both religious and social needs. Tents were erected to allow people to stay overnight, and the campground term remained even though the tents were gradually replaced by rough-hewn cabins. Week-long camp meetings are still held annually at Cypress Methodist Camp Ground.

<sup>1</sup>The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, August 7, 1771 to December 7, 1815. Vol. II. New York: N. Bangs & T. Mason, 1821, p. 183.

<sup>2</sup>The Wesleyan Journal, Vol. I, No. 4, October 22, 1825, n.p.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Betts, Albert Deems. History of South Carolina Methodism. Columbia, S.C.:  
The Advocate Press, 1952, pp. 161-166.

The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Vol. II.  
New York: Bangs and Mason, 1821, pp. 183, 365.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.13 acres  
UTM REFERENCES

Latitude N33°-06'-18"

Longitude W80°-16'-27"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property consists of 9.13 acres and is bounded on the south, east, and north by land of Lewis B. Myers; on the west by property of Marion Thrower.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Elias Bull, Berkeley-  
Charleston-Dorchester  
preservation planner)

NAME / TITLE Kappy McNulty & Beckie Downing, Historic Preservation Division	DATE July 27, 1977
ORGANIZATION S. C. Department of Archives and History	TELEPHONE (803) 758-5816
STREET & NUMBER 1430 Senate Street	STATE South Carolina
CITY OR TOWN Columbia	

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE  
Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>William Cole</i>	DATE 4/26/78
<del>KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER</del>	DATE 4.12.78

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116

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

one

The Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church,  
Vol. III. New York: Bangs and Mason, 1821, pp. 47, 90.

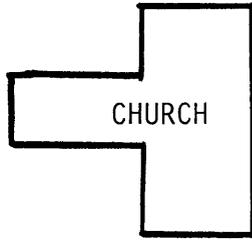
The Wesleyan Journal, Vol. I, No. 4, October 22, 1825, n.p.

Telephone Interview with Mr. Herbert Hucks, Archivist, Wofford College, Spartanburg,  
South Carolina, June 23, 1977.

Sketch map of  
CYPRESS METHODIST CAMPGROUND  
Dorchester County  
South Carolina  
(Not to scale)



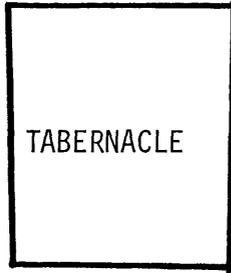
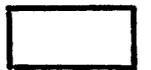
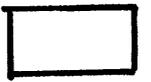
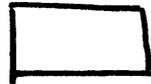
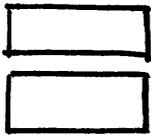
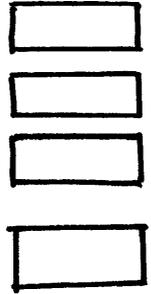
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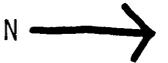
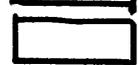
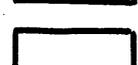
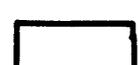
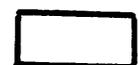
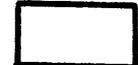
CHURCH



STORE

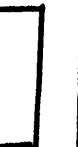
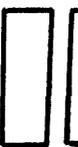
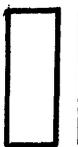
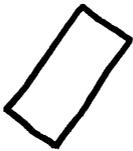


TABERNACLE



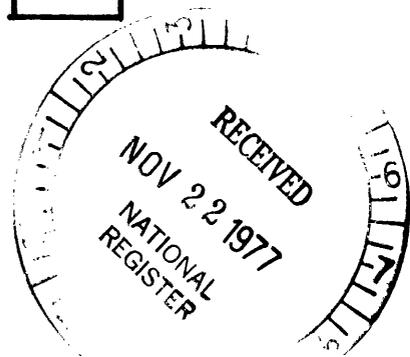
(OUTHUSES)

"TENTS"



UNPAVED ROAD

(OUTHUSES)



UNPAVED ROAD  
(OUTHUSES)